

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR

SUBJ: PROMINENT ATTENTION TO GENERAL GOODPASTER INTERVIEW

REF THESSALONIKI - 0206

1. SUMMARY. GREEK PRESS, RADIO, AND TV GAVE PROMENENT COVERAGE APRIL 19-20 TO THE TEXT OF A WRITTEN INTERVIEW ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF NATO BETWEEN SHAPE COMMANDER, GENERAL GOODPASTER, AND CHRISTOS LAMBOS, PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR ENCOURAGING NATO'S AIMS. HOWEVER TIMING OF RELEASE RELATED STATEMENT IN FACT MORE TO APRIL 21 REVOLUTION THAN TO APRIL 4 NATO ANNIVERSARY. THE OVERWHELMING IMPACT AND PRESUMABLY INTENT, OF LOCAL USE OF THE INTERVIEW WAS TO REINFORCE A POSITIVE IMAGE OF THE GREEK ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRO-REGIME ELEFTHEROS COSMOS AMONG ATHENS DAILIES OF APRIL 19, GAVE THE GOODPASTER INTERVIEW THE GREATEST PROMINENCE BY DEVOTING HALF ITS FRONT-PAGE TO IT. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BANNER HEADLINES - "THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF NATO:

GREECE MAINTAINS POWERFUL AND WELL-WEAPONED ARMED FORCES,"  
"GREEK LEADERSHIP DETERMINED TO HAVE EFFECTIVE DEFENSE",  
AND "THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS"-  
ILLUSTRATED THE PAPER'S EMPHASIS UPON THOSE PORTIONS OF  
THE INTERVIEW COMMENTING FAVORABLY ON THE GREEK ARMED  
FORCES AND UPON THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF  
GREECE. ALTHOUGH THE FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW WAS  
PUBLISHED, THE QUOTATIONS DEALING WITH NATO GENERALLY  
AND WITH SOVIET AIMS WERE DOWNPLAYED, AS WAS NATO  
ANNIVERSARY FOR WHICH IT WAS INTENDED.

3. PRO-REGIME AKROPOLIS GAVE FULL PRESS TREATMENT UNDER  
THE HEADLINE: "IMPORTANT STRATEGIC ROLE OF GREECE-  
SAYS GOODPASTER". TO VIMA PUBLISHED ONLY A SUMMARY  
OF THE INTERVIEW ON INSIDE PAGES. NO ATHENS DAILY  
CARRIED THE EDITORIAL DISTORTION OF ELLINIKOS VORRAS  
IN THE NORTH (REFTEL) WHICH MADE THE GOODPASTER INTERVIEW  
SOUND MORE LIKE AN ENDORSEMENT FOR GREEK CONTROL OF THE AEGEAN.

4. THE AKROPOLIS EDITORIAL OF APRIL 19 INTERPRETED  
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GENERAL GOODPASTER'S STATEMENT WITHIN  
THE PAPER'S TRADITIONAL, PRO-REGIME STANCE. THROUGH  
GOODPASTER'S COMMENTS, AKROPOLIS ARGUED A) THOSE WHO  
MAY BE PLOTTING AGAINST THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF GREECE  
ARE WARNED THAT THE COUNTRY'S ARMED FORCES ARE STRONG  
AND READY TO PROTECT THEM FROM ANY PROVOCATION; B) A SEVERE  
BLOW IS DEALT AGAINST THOSE WHO - IN THEIR EFFORT TO  
SERVE SELFISH POLITICAL AIMS - HAVE NOT HESITATED TO  
CLAIM THAT THE GREEK ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN WEAKENED -  
AS A FORMER OFFICIAL (JOHN ZIGDIS) OF THE CENTER UNION  
PARTY DID WHILE TESTIFYING BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES ON MARCH 27, AND C) THE GREEK PEOPLE'S  
BELIEF THAT THE COUNTRY'S ARMED FORCES ARE STRONG AND  
AT A HIGH DEGREE OF READINESS IS REINFORCED BY  
GENERAL GOODPASTER'S CONCLUSIONS. THE EDITORIAL COMMENTED  
THAT THE GREEK PEOPLE ARE BECOMING CONSCIOUS OF THE  
NEED FOR THE ARMED FORCES TO BE CONSTANTLY MODERNIZED  
AND IMPROVED AND THUS UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC  
SACRIFICES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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5. A VERY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION WAS MADE IN THE  
CLANDESTINE, COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED "VOICE OF TRUTH"  
GREEK BROADCAST OF APRIL 20 WHICH DAMNED THE INTERVIEW  
AS AN ATTEMPT "ON THE EVE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FASCIST COUP OF APRIL 21, 1967" TO "REVIEW THE SHAKEN  
PRESTIGE OF THE DICTATORSHIP, AT HELPING IT TO REINFORCE  
ITS CONTROL OVER THE ARMED FORCES, AND AT PREVENTING  
AN AGGRAVATION OF DISSENSION WITHIN JUNTA FACTIONS

WHICH WIDENS THE RIFTS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES."

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## Message Attributes

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